

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 were originally filed in this application. Amendments to claims 1, 2, 6, 8 and 12 are made in response. Claims 3-4 and 9-10 have been canceled. Consequently, claims 1-2, 5-9, and 11-13 are still pending in this application.

Support for the amendments to the claims and the new claims can be found throughout the specification. Therefore, no new matter has been added. Amendment of a claim is not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any subject matter.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to Claims 1, 2, 6, and 8 for informalities in the claim language. The claims have been amended to overcome these informalities.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner has objected to Claims 1, 3, 4, 10 and under 35 U.S.C. 112 for failing to particularly point out the subject matter of the invention. The claims have been amended to correct the antecedent basis and make clear that the angle for both piece is the same angle.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-13 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103 by Nakamura in view of Smith.

However, neither Nakamura or Smith disclose or teach all of the elements of the currently pending claims. The claims have been amended to include that the preselected included angle ranges from about 80 degrees to about 130 degrees. The structure and shape of angle provided by the two pieces of the panel spacer provide a stronger attachment between the two piece of the spacer to facilitate placement of the fastener.

Neither the Nakamura or Smith references teach a panel spacer having an angle from about 80 degrees to about 130 degrees. The Nakamura reference relied on by the Examiner for

the teaching of this particular angle only has an angle of about 180 degrees (see the figure of Nakumura. There is no teaching of any other angles with respect to the axis that passes through the bore of the first piece in this reference. If the Examiner still contends that there is teaching towards this limitation, Applicants request that Examiner point out this teaching in a subsequent office action.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 8 should also be allowable. Thus the applicant respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) rejections to claims 1-13.


Conclusion

Applicants have complied with all requirements made in the above referenced communication. Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and therefore, respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should matters remain, which the Examiner believes could be resolved in a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the Applicants' undersigned agent.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s), or to credit any overpayments to **Deposit Account Number 01-1000**. Please ensure that Attorney Docket Number 93680-010100/03-2276 is referred to when charging any payments or credits for this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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